

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Justice, Inc. and Indy Pride, Inc. To Merge

Justice, Inc. (Indiana's statewide civil rights organization on gay, lesbian and HIV issues) and Indy Pride, Inc. (Indianapolis' premier local pride organizer) have entered into discussions on Indy Pride merging with Justice. The groups have worked well the past two years, and announced at the Indy Pride Street Fair this Fall that the two groups had begun discussions on how the groups can expand their positive relationship and collaboration. These talks have gone exceptionally well, and on November 17 the Board of Directors of Indy Pride unanimously approved a resolution to approve and negotiate details of a merger into Justice, Inc.

Both organizations are pleased at the progress of their efforts to collaborate, and to illustrate to the Indiana GLBT communities that organizations can work together and build a positive working relationship to better serve all of Indiana.

Wally Paynter, President

Justice, Inc.

Linda Batchelor-Ballew, President

Indy Pride, Inc.

ABOUT JUSTICE, INC.:

Justice, Inc. is Indiana's statewide civil rights organization on gay, lesbian and HIV issues.

Justice needs donations of both time and money to help us fight for our legislative issues.

Justice, Inc. P. O. Box 2387 Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 634-9212

e-mail: info@justiceinc.org

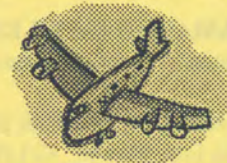
web site: www.justiceinc.org

FROM: Joyce Plummer, National Women's Music Festival producer:

Hi everyone! Please spread the word (via mouth or email or carrier pigeon or whatever) that I have booked Chastity Bono as a guest speaker for the 2000 Festival. She will be speaking on Friday, June 23. I'm looking for someone to save the Festival some money by either underwriting her airfare, or by donating enough frequent flyer miles to put her in first class seating. If you know anyone who flies a lot and would be willing to donate the FFM's, please have them give me a call. Or if you know someone who works for an airline and could pull magic strings, give them my name and number (317-923-5574).

Thanks for any help you can give the Festival!

Joyce Plummer



RECEIVED VIA E-MAIL

Can you imagine working at the following Company? It has a little over 500 employees with the following statistics:

- *29 have been accused of spousal abuse
- *7 have been arrested for fraud
- *19 have been accused of writing bad checks
- *117 have bankrupted at least two businesses
- *3 have been arrested for assault
- *71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit
- *14 have been arrested on drug-related charges
- *8 have been arrested for shoplifting
- *21 are current defendants in lawsuits
- *In 1998 alone, 84 were stopped for drunk driving

Can you guess which organization this is?

Give up?

It's the 535 members of your United States Congress. The same group that perpetually cranks out hundreds upon hundreds of new laws designed to keep the rest of us in line.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Are you interested in being part of a drumming group and learning African rhythms? Call Melinda 219-287-6513

Barnes & Noble's Gay & Lesbian Reading Group meets on the 4th Wednesday , 8:30 P.M. For info call 219-277-9482

CODEPENDENCE ANONYMOUS meetings will begin on Saturdays 9:30 AM at the Southside Christian Church. It is not Church Affiliated. We are just using the church as a meeting place. For more info call Lynn at 259-6801

WOMEN'S AA MEETING will be held on Thursdays at Southside Christian Church at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Loretta H. at 256-1183.

MICHIANA'S GAY YOUTH GROUP... for GLBT youth under 20 years of age, continues to offer to the youth community a positive and educational perspective on health issues, relationships with their families, coming out issues and history of the community. The support group will continue with the same (IYG) guidelines that have been used over the past eight years in a peer group setting. For more information call 219-235-9396 All calls are confidential.

THE TREVOR HOTLINE National toll-free suicide hotline for gay and questioning youth. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Teens can call 1-800-850-8078, where they can talk to trained counselors. Visit www.trevorproject.com

THE LGBT SWITCHBOARD is a non-profit organization that provides assistance and/or referral to the LGBT community in Bloomington, IN as well as surrounding areas. The phone line is answered daily between 6 PM -12AM by professionally trained volunteers who direct callers to various professionals &/or agencies for assistance. 812-336-7660 or 1-888-882-5428(LGBT)

THE SWITCHBOARD... takes calls every night from 7-11PM 317-251-7955 Callers can discuss issues such as coming out, transgender, marriage and other topics. All calls are confidential. Also on the at www.gayindy.org/switchboard/

GAY & LESBIAN HELPLINE/PEER LISTENING LINE The peer listening line is a nationwide toll free number staffed by GLBT youth who provide information, referrals, and support to callers Monday thru Friday 4PM-10PM EST 1-888-340-GLBT (4528). The gay & lesbian helpline does the same work Monday - Friday 6PM-11PM, Sat. & Sun. 5PM-10PM EST 1-800-399-PEER (7337)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) Meetings are open to the public and will be the 4th Wed. from 7 - 9PM of each month , Lower Level...St. Joseph Cty Public Library, 304 S. Main, S. Bend, more info: Penny 291-2342, Rhoda 288-7123

KALAMAZOO GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER, C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level
629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001 voice mail: (616) 349-4234

LESBIAN GROWTH & SUPPORT GROUP Fort Wayne Woman's Bureau at 3521 Lake Ave. Suite 1, Info...219-424-7977
Also in Fort Wayne...**G/L/Bi/T Helpline** 219-744-1199 available Mon.-Thurs., 7-10 PM, Fri.-Sat, 7-12 AM, Sun, 8-9 PM
FORT WAYNE IYG..... a support group for GLBT youth under 21 years of age Information: 219-422-7597

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP Every Tuesday 7-9 PM For Info, write: LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

BLOOMINGTON OUTREACH, informal support group for lesbian & bisexual women 812-855-3849

NORTH/CENTRAL ALLIANCE Located in the Kokomo, Tipton, Logansport, Marion and Frankfort area of North/Central Indiana....North/Central Alliance, P.O. Box 186, Kokomo, IN. 46903.. Voice Mail 317-454-8868

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Meetings are from 2 to 4 PM the 4th Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend. Info.....Nancy 219-277-2684, or write P.O. Box 4195, S. Bend, 46634
PFLAG in the St. Joseph/Berrien County area, group meetings take place the 3rd Wed. of each month. Info...call 616-429-2957
PFLAG in Fort Wayne meets every 2nd Monday at Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 W. Berry St, Info...Jackie, 219-486-2201

SAPPHOS NETWORK A support/study/social group for N. Cent. IN, P.O. Box 118, Kewanna, IN 46939 219-595-7542

Weekly Event..... Sundays, 9:30 AM, All womyn are welcome to join in a breakfast at the Perkins Restaurant (I-94 & Sprinkle Road) Kalamazoo more info 616-324-8688

Kalamazoo Phoenix Christian Church 6 PM Sky Ridge Church, Drake Road. Sunday School 4:30 PM
Rev. Janice Springer, Pastor more info 616-381-3222

The Amazon Trail
by Lee Lynch



TACKY, TACKY

Last year I was poking around an antique shop in town looking for a gift when I saw it.

High on a shelf, fire-engine red, unlovely, forgotten -- the red cat. I turned away, appalled. How could anyone create such a tasteless insult to feline beauty? Yet my eyes were drawn back again and again from the flower-patterned chamber pots, the iron door stops, the huddles of blue glass on old maple highboys. I bought the red cat.

If I'd left that red cat behind, life as I knew it would have gone on. Instead, I set it on a shelf and grew to love the thing. How many more objects de non-art out there depicted cats? Wouldn't it be fun to have a Tacky Cat Collection?

Poor Lover. How was she to know when we got together that my addictive nature would take this form. How was I to know?

For a while I hit that same shop monthly. Then I branched out to another a few miles away. (I didn't want anyone to know I was out of control.) Bingo, another kitty collectable.

Meanwhile, Lover, inadvertently and to her subsequent dismay, thought to please me with little surprises from her favorite antique shop. Every time she stopped she'd bring home another deliciously tacky cat. Except they weren't so tacky any more. They'd become too appealing.

Maybe, I decided, it's the concept of collecting cat figurines that's tacky. I remember all the old women of my childhood who set porcelain figurines of clowns and birds and children on doilies and inside glass cabinets. Or women of my generation with our political pins or crystals or stuffed animals. Ah, I'm just a late-blooming collector. Except for old books, that is. And mini toy vehicles.

In any case, once I received Lover's unintentional blessing, I was lost. Anything was fair game. I now have a Cheshire Cat grinning from the bathroom wall, a crouching blue-eyed kitty under the chair by the hearth, several figurines prancing across my dresser, a cat clock on my desk, a shelf of miniatures and several more shelves of wood, glass, porcelain, ceramic and pewter cats.

It's been a challenging year. Not to find all the little guys, but to do anything but look for them. The temptations go well beyond antique shops. As a matter of fact I stay out of those -- they're way overpriced. We went with friends to a junk shop up north and one of them proudly revealed her find for me, a homemade, two foot, sitting, putrid green cat. It was truly tacky and resides next to the roly-poly paper mache tuxedoed cat who's adorned with a rhinestone tie pin and cigar. People are weird.

(Continued on page 5)

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**She who loses money, loses much
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She who loses faith, loses all**



WELLNESS CORNER

By Susan Myers, R.N., LCSW, CHTP

A Shared Story of Abundance

When I work with the poor, I am always amazed at the gratefulness in the hearts of so many who, in a material sense, have very little. What are they grateful for? They seem grateful to be alive, to have food on their table, to enjoy the sun on a beautiful day, to have their health, their friends, their family, and to be a contributing member of their community in what ever way they are able.

At the same time, I am always amazed by the lack of gratefulness in the hearts of so many who, in a material sense, have so much. If you were to ask me which of the two were happier, without hesitation, I would say the poor with gratefulness in their hearts.

When we focus on abundance, our life feels abundant; when we focus on lack, our life feels lacking. It is purely a matter of focus.

It is true that we can't be in denial about the pain in our lives. Denial is damaging to our physical and emotional health. And just as importantly, we can't be in denial about the abundance in our life!

Each night before you go to bed, jot down at least 50 wonderful things that happened to you today. This will help you notice the blessings you have in your life. In the beginning this may be very difficult but if you do this over time, I guarantee you will notice how you are blessed. You will find your self LOOKING for the gifts and soon will see that you have changed your attitude and are focused more on abundance. That's how it works!

As you start looking for the good, your focus automatically is taken off the bad.....and you feel blessed. You have also raised your vibrational level and a higher vibrational level promotes wellness!

If you make noticing abundance a habit, your life will be transformed.

Happy Holidays, and be safe in what ever you do. Spend time with friends and family and treasure the moments together with love. You are abundantly blessed!

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PLEASE DIRECT ALL ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**TO P.O. BOX 845, MISHAWAKA, IN. 46546***(Continued from page 3)*

Weird enough to think anyone would bid for such items in online auctions. But the prices! The oddities! The adorability quotient! I am convinced that I single-handedly drove up the price of cat figurines within a month of discovering ebay. Partly because I didn't understand how some auctions worked. In between bidding on cat statuettes I managed to purchase a new computer by mistake. Luckily, it was a good deal.

Soon, what with increasing numbers of gifts and exciting finds, I began to run out of shelving and floor space and windowsills and bookshelves. Lover suggested I purchase a CD case, one of those stand up jobs with multiple shelves. That soon filled up.

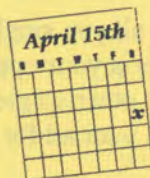
Then an ebay auction yielded the first three miniatures.

Definitely the cutest doodads I've ever seen with their pastel painted clothing and tiny detailing. This was the answer to the space problem! I'd only collect miniature domestic felines. Alas, other compulsives happened on that solution. Miniature cats are difficult to find and fiercely bid on at the auction sites. It's hard to win an auction when, like me, the buyer has a three dollar price ceiling. I found new miniatures in a gift shop in New Hampshire last fall that were a better buy. And, after an extensive wrapping session, flew them home.

Then last weekend, when I was buying some fabric at Wal-mart's (we don't have a fabric store nearby), I passed the button rack. There was a pair of cat-shaped buttons. They were smaller than the smallest figurines. They were hand-painted. They were under \$3.00.

In the blink of an eye, I had a new fever. I'd micro-specialize! Kitty buttons don't take up much space at all. If I avoid brass and pewter, fabric-covered and large, I'll reclaim that feeling of being challenged and we won't be crowded out of our house. If I can learn to resist every red, and putrid green, and pastel cat figurine I see. But will buttons be tacky enough?

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**Michiana Tax & Accounting, Inc****2325 S 11th St****Niles, MI 49120****616-683-1040****Bookkeeping & Payroll****Taxes-Corporate, Individual, Partnership****Karen Arnold****Judy Windhauser****JUSTICE SEEKS INTERNS.....**

Justice, Inc., Indiana's statewide civil rights organization on gay, lesbian & HIV issues, works with colleges and students to provide opportunities for students interested in gay, lesbian and HIV issues to do internships which include lobbying, activism, organizing, media work and many other activities. Justice will work with the intern on specific projects depending on the candidate, length of internship and credit hours. Call Justice at 317-634-9212 or e-mail president@justiceinc.org with questions.

To apply: send a cover letter, resume and contact information with 3 references to Wally Paynter, Justice President, P.O. Box 2387, Indianapolis, IN 46206

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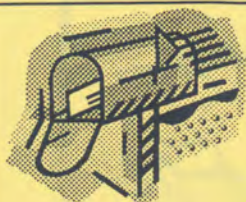
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#90.....Hi single, white woman would like to meet someone first as a friend, possibly to lead into a more involved relationship later. I enjoy walking, bike riding, listening to the radio and watching movies. I don't have e-mail but would like to call and talk to you and get to know each other better.

#91....Hi, I'm a 45 year-old, white female, 5'8", 160 pounds, gray hair, brown eyes, nice looking, who enjoys trust, honesty, friendship, communication, rock music, partying, festivals and quiet times too. Drop me a line, I can never have too many friends.

#92...Hi, 36 year old white female, honest, passionate, and very sincere. I enjoy movies, fun times out or quiet times at home. I am looking for femme/soft butch to share these interests and possibly more. Please, no Bi's or head games, just open/honest.

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OPEN ARMS MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

Open Arms is mailed monthly in a security envelope with a PO Box return address only.

Our mailing list is kept confidential and never shared with other publications or special interest groups.

Please send submissions to:

Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN. 46546

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NGLTF POLICY INSTITUTE LAUNCHES FAMILY POLICY PROGRAM TO COORDINATE RESEARCH,
STRATEGY AND ACTION TO PROTECT
AND PROMOTE GLBT FAMILIES
Veteran attorney and family activist Paula Ettelbrick to
lead initiative

The Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced creation of a Family Policy program to secure inclusive definitions of family in national, state and local policy contexts. The Family Policy Program will engage in research, policy analysis, coalition building, strategy development and collaborative work with a wide range of family-focused organizations to ensure that the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) families are considered and protected.

"We are in the midst of a revolution in family creation within GLBT communities, but ironically, and inaccurately, our movement is characterized as being anti-family," said NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel. "This Program at NGLTF's Policy Institute takes aim at the myths that persist about our families and will formulate a genuinely pro-family public policy agenda from the vantage point of GLBT people's lives."

The Family Policy Program at the Policy Institute is funded by major gifts from several parents, including Seattle City Councilwoman and philanthropist Tina Podlodowski, and California-based donors Jennifer and Kathy Levinson through a gift from the Lesbian Equity Foundation of Silicon Valley.

Urvashi Vaid, director of the Policy Institute announced that nationally renowned lesbian attorney and family advocate, Paula Ettelbrick, has been hired to direct the Family Policy Program. Ettelbrick has worked on local, state and national family policy issues for the past 13 years. She is former legal director of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, where she developed the group's emphasis on family advocacy and founded the Family Relationships Project. She served as public policy director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Since 1994, Ettelbrick has been legislative counsel for the Empire State Pride Agenda, where she is credited with helping win passage of New York City's comprehensive domestic partnership policy and drafting innovative municipal and state pro-GLBT family laws.

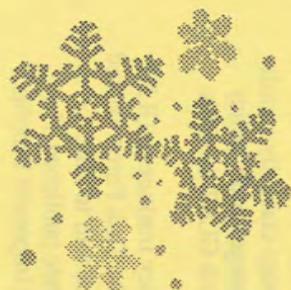
Ettelbrick and her partner, Suzanne Goldberg, have a two-year old son and are expecting another child in September. She has taught law for 10 years and currently teaches a course on sexuality and the law at New York University Law School and the University of Michigan Law School. Earlier this year, Ettelbrick served as the National Coordinator of the highly successful "Equality Begins at Home" campaign, sponsored by NGLTF and the Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations, which encompassed 350 rallies and other events in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia last March.

Vaid observed that Ettelbrick's expertise will be invaluable to the national GLBT movement's efforts to organize around family issues. She pointed out that as of June of 1999, almost 50 anti-GLBT family bills had been filed in state legislatures throughout the country. "This nationwide mobilization against our families comes directly from the anti-gay religious right and its think tanks," Vaid said "It is an effective strategy because the GLBT political movement at the state level remains understaffed and underfunded." The NGLTF Family Policy program will pursue three major objectives: first, to provide the data and arguments that can enable activists to secure inclusive definitions of family in national, state and local policy frameworks and to effectively refute the anti-family policies of the right-wing; second, to actively build an effective and collaborative national pro-GLBT family network among GLBT and mainstream organizations working on family issues; and third, to educate the general public about the value and values of GLBT families.

Ettelbrick will assist NGLTF in articulating a voice in policy debates that have a great impact on GLBT families, including debates on adoption, co-parenting, foster care, alternative insemination and recognition of broader family support networks. In addition, NGLTF will raise GLBT perspectives in debates that have traditionally excluded consideration of GLBT perspectives. Examples include definitions of family in Social Security reform proposals, the Older Americans Act and immigration policy.

Noted Vaid, "A number of legal and advocacy groups do excellent work in the arena of family issues, but no group currently coordinates the efforts of our movement in this area so that collaboratively we can muster the resources we need to change family policy. In addition, there is no national research center for policy development and policy analysis on family issues. With GLBT families facing attack on so many fronts, the need for a coordinated national approach has never been greater."

Announcement of the Family Policy Program is part of a long-term commitment on the part of the NGLTF Policy Institute to GLBT Families. Beginning in the 1980s, NGLTF housed the first national Families Project. Throughout the 1990's, the Task Force worked actively on a number of family issues. In 1998, NGLTF organized "Celebrating Our Families," a 15-city national tour to raise the visibility of GLBT family issues and to organize against attacks by right wing groups. In 1999, the Policy Institute published The Domestic Partnership Organizing Manual to help employees and citizens around the country mobilize to obtain important benefits for their families.



January 2000

SUN

MON

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WED

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25, Lori M.
26, Lisa F.

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